

Mr. DEFAZIO. Another real problem confronting America, another symbolic gesture by the Republican leadership. The thirteenth House vote on opening the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge to drilling.

Now, real action would require taking on the price gouging, collusion, and market manipulation of big oil. Reign in the speculation in the commodities market, save 25 cents a gallon. Impose a windfall profits tax, reopen or build new refinery capacity, 70 cents a gallon. Take on the OPEC cartel but no, they are not going to take on big oil and protect American families who are reacting with shock and awe to costs at the pump because it might slow the gusher, the gusher of campaign contributions flowing into the Republican coffers. So families across America will pay 50 bucks to tank up this weekend and the Republicans will pretend they care.

HONORING ROBERT GIAIMO

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, the House of Representatives lost a giant this week. Robert N. Giaimo was a profound figure in this body, someone who represented the values, the dreams and aspirations of the people he represented.

For eleven terms he served the Third District of Connecticut that I am now honored to represent. And as a fellow child of Italian immigrants from North Haven, Connecticut, he did so with distinction, with honor and with special purpose.

During his 22 years in the Congress, 1959 to 1980, his contributions were as momentous as they were numerous. Serving during a time of great upheaval in this country, it was Bob Giaimo who led the first successful effort to end funds for the fighting in Southeast Asia. He co-sponsored legislation that led to the creation of the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities, unleashing the creative potential of millions of Americans. And when the Congress decide it was time to get control of the Federal budget process, they chose Bob Giaimo to chair that committee which he did with integrity for 4 years.

Bob's priority was always making sure that the work that we did in the Congress, the programs and the funding impacted those who needed it most.

Madam Speaker, the legacy of Congressman Robert Giaimo lives on today in his former staff, some of whom went on to serve in the Connecticut State legislature. It lives on in the people he served in our district for whom he made opportunity real. It lives on in his successors, in the work that I do in the Congress.

Our thoughts and our prayers are with the family, his daughter, B.L., and his wife, Marion.

Bob Giaimo was an inspiration to so many and we will miss him. Just very, very briefly, I can recall being 8 years old when Bob Giaimo went to visit my parents, Louise and Ted DeLauro. He said he was running for the United States Congress and would they support his effort as they were involved in politics as well. They did support that effort. He won the race. I have in my possession, in my family's possession, a letter saying thank you to Louise and Ted DeLauro for their help in getting him elected.

He reached enormous heights, yet he never forgot where he came from.

DEFENDING THE SPEAKER

(Mr. OSBORNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. OSBORNE. Madam Speaker, I rise to address the House for 1 minute regarding DENNY HASTERT, the Speaker of the House.

As many people have previously observed, the Speaker is not under any investigation at the present time. I have been part of a group that meets with DENNY on a weekly basis for the last 2 years and have found this person to be a person of unimpeachable character. He is one that you can take his word to the bank; and so if there is any Member of the House who does not deserve this, it would be DENNY HASTERT.

Sometimes we are all painted with a very broad brush here, and I am very sorry that DENNY has been painted in such a way. I simply wanted to come to the House floor today to register my support, my regard of the Speaker, and the fact that it is very unfortunate that someone of his character would be attacked in this way. And I am sure this applies to others on both sides of the aisle.

RIISING GAS PRICES REACHING THE CRISIS STAGE

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day many of my constituents face the same dilemma as other Americans around the country. With gas prices out of control, many can hardly afford to drive to work, let alone drive on a vacation in their cars.

For 5 years now, House Republicans have refused to offer a real solution to the rising gas prices, choosing instead to rubberstamp CHENEY's energy task force meetings that boosted the profits of big oil while hurting working Americans.

The only plan that Republicans are offering consumers this Memorial Day is to allow drilling in the National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, a temporary solution which would damage a natural treasure while providing no long term supply of oil. This makes no sense from a practical or environmental standpoint.

Democrats have a better plan. We have an innovative agenda that would help our Nation achieve energy independence within 10 years through clean, sustainable energy alternatives. We will provide tax incentives to encourage increased production of home-grown fuels.

Madam Speaker, let's protect the American consumers so they can once again afford to drive to work and take vacations with their families.

STANDING BEHIND THE SPEAKER

(Mr. PUTNAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to follow my good friend, Coach OSBORNE, to also address the malignment of our Speaker of this great House. No one cares more about the institution of this House than DENNY HASTERT. No one believes in the integrity of this House more than DENNY HASTERT. No Member is more aware of the need for us to be worthy of the respect and dignity that voters place in us when they elect us to serve in this House.

I want to reiterate that the Department of Justice for the second time has affirmed that there is no investigation into the Speaker of this House. And I quote from their release from Deputy Attorney General Paul McNulty, "With regard to reports suggesting that the Speaker of House is under investigation or 'in the mix' as stated by ABC News, I reconfirm, as stated by the Department earlier this evening, that these reports are untrue."

Two separate statements now from the Department of Justice exonerating the Speaker, saying that he is not under investigation, and yet ABC news continues to malign his good name and his reputation. Stand behind the Speaker of the House.

REPUBLICAN CULTURE OF CORRUPTION LEAVES NO ROOM FOR REAL LEADERSHIP

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, we have all seen the polls. We know that Americans are unhappy by what they have seen here in Washington. They are looking for real leadership on the important issues of the day and where is the leadership from this Republican Congress?

Madam Speaker, the Republicans control the House. Where are their new ideas to help reduce prices at the pump? Where are their new ideas to help seniors with the new prescription drug disaster plan? Where are their new ideas on how to help college students afford better college? Where are their ideas on how to help everyday Americans struggling to make ends meet or how to get 45 million Americans that lack health coverage, health

coverage? Where are their new ideas to reduce the huge national deficit which happened on their watch leaving our children and grandchildren with debt as far as the eye can see?

Madam Speaker, Democrats have new ideas and are ready to lead this House.

TAX CUTS OR VETERAN BENEFITS

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, a group of House Republicans last week seriously undermined our Nation's ability to fight the war on terror when they objected to more than \$500 million in funding that directly affects our veterans and our soldiers in combat. These were all funds the President said were necessary to properly fund military construction projects and our veterans services. And yet the House Republican leadership allowed these funds to be stripped from the bill by not properly funding these programs in the budget they passed last week.

This small group of House Republicans would not have been able to act against our troops and our veterans if the Republican leadership had been honest about their real funding needs in their budget. House Republicans want Americans to believe that they can continue to provide \$40,000 tax breaks every year to millionaires without negatively impacting critical Federal obligations. But Memorial Day approaches this weekend, House Republicans need to decide whether they want to continue to stick with the wealthiest few or if they want to level with the American people about our true financial commitment to our military and our veterans. It is time they choose.

AMERICAN-MADE ENERGY AND GOOD JOBS ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 835 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 835

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 5429) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish and implement a competitive oil and gas leasing program that will result in an environmentally sound program for the exploration, development, and production of the oil and gas resources of the Coastal Plain of Alaska, and for other purposes. The bill shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Resources; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). The gentleman

from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

House Resolution 835 provides for a closed rule with 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Resources, waives all points of order against consideration of the bill, and provides for one motion to recommit.

This rule allows this body to, once again, consider important legislation which is a key component of moving our Nation further along towards greater energy independence.

H.R. 5429, the American-Made Energy and Good Jobs Act is appropriately titled. It highlights the fact that the United States has within its borders vast untapped natural energy resources which have been locked away largely because of surreal political rhetoric battles, not based on reality, and it highlights the fact that developing this energy would provide many new jobs to our national economy and support our existing domestic economy.

We drive. We use plastics. Our agriculture uses fertilizers. 90 percent of our food is trucked to us. This is indeed talking about our economic health.

I know in the rhetoric that will take place there will be some emotional consideration that will happen. But I think also in the rhetoric, we will find several facts that will emerge.

Fact number one is there is oil in this area. The U.S. Geological Survey, our own researchers have stated with the probability that is higher than any of the pollsters who will be using our campaigns will say, that there is a minimum of 4.2 billion barrels and a mean factor of 8 billion barrels of oil. They have clearly stated this is the largest on-shore source of petroleum we have in the United States. If this were the only source of energy that we were using, my good friend, Mr. HASTINGS' State, could go for 29 years of energy needs in his State of Florida just with this source alone. My State uses far less air conditioning. We could go for 218 years just from this source alone.

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A second fact that will come through. The purpose of this land is for oil exploration. When I first came here, there was a campaign to try and discredit drilling up in this area. They showed pictures of mountains, lush conifers, forests, lakes, meadows. It was a good PR campaign. It would have been a perfect PR campaign if it was true. They were actually using pictures in this area.

Secretary Norton said in the congressional committee in March of 2003, this

is a coastal plain. It is called a coastal plain because it is a plain. There are no mountains, there are no deep water lakes, there are no trout streams. The only trout you will find in this area is frozen.

When Jimmy Carter and the Democrat-controlled legislature of Congress at the time created the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, an area the size of South Carolina. They also created the section known as 10/02. That is not ANWR.

When we were having 10 percent inflation and 10 percent unemployment at the same time, they created an area the size of the State of Delaware if you include the water for the purpose of oil exploration. It was stated at the time that this is where our future energy supply would come. Well, the future is now.

What we are talking about is a million and a half acres, the size of Delaware, with a displacement potential of around 2,000 acres to capture the energy in this particular area. That is roughly the size from the Capitol down to the Air and Space Museum on the lawn, out of an area the size of the State of Delaware. Mathematically, that comes to about .13 percent of the land that is available. Those are like finger clippings that we are talking about.

Fact number three: The locals who live on this land, who know the land and who love the land, are almost in unanimous support of this proposition.

Fact number four: When we created the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge and this 10/02 section for oil exploration, we also made other decisions that increased our oil dependence on foreign sources, specifically from countries who do not like to play nice. What we have done by doing that is limit our diplomatic options. We have limited our independence. We have limited our freedom of action, and the only way to reverse that is to by creating clear oil independence, and that is an important step to do it.

So, for 11 times since 1995, we have passed in this body with a bipartisan vote of support drilling in this 10/02 section of land, and that was when the price of gas was cheap. We are now coming together for a 12th time with, once again, I hope bipartisan support to pass this effort. After all, it took Jacob 12 times to produce Joseph. I am convinced that we today on our 12th try will produce something as noble as that.

Now, there are some reasons for some people who do not want to do this. I consider it somewhat of an attitude issue. Sometimes we oversimplify our life. We think of the world as either black and white, yes or no, right or wrong, left or right, and do not recognize the shades of differences that are in between.

What our constituents want us to do is to reach across the aisle and in a bipartisan way try and solve an energy problem, understanding there are